

Remarks

Claims 16-40 are now pending in this application. Claims 16-40 are rejected. Claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 16 and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicant acknowledges that the restriction requirement has been made final and Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-10 and 12-15 which were withdrawn from prosecution as a result of the restriction requirement.

Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to the specification. Applicant has amended the specification to overcome the objection that the specification does not describe or disclose a client sub-system, tracking component, sending component, mouse button, voice command, unauthorized individuals, collection component, information fulfillment component, downloading the accessed information after retrieving from the centralized database to a plurality of users in an order in which inquiries were received by the receiving component, identifier, and real time basis. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification provides antecedent basis to a user identification number. Specifically, the specification describes, for example, "once the user provides department name 202 and location 204, the system displays...a User ID 210...for department 202 of selected carrier 206" (specification, page 7, lines 26-29). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to the drawings. Applicant has amended the specification to change database 18 to database 20. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 16-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams et al. (US2002/0032573) is respectfully traversed.

Williams et al. describe a system that enables an administrator to define a plurality of shipping locations, also referred to as sites (paragraph 120). Each site is a distinct shipping location that may have individual carrier accounts and customized rates, as well as distinct users, associated with it (paragraph 120). As part of the site

definition, the administrator may specify such things as: origin address information; available carriers available for all users of that site, including carrier account and rate information, available drop-off locations, including corporate drop-off locations, if any, and/or carrier dropboxes, offices, call-for-carrier-pick-up, MBE locations, instructions to be provided on the bottom half of a shipping/traveler label; and a traveler label format to be used (paragraph 120). A drop-off location that a particular user chooses drives the instructional text provided on the shipping or traveler label that the particular user chooses to print (paragraph 124). The "traveler" label is not an actual shipping label. Rather, the traveler label is a pre-processing label that a user chooses to print and then provides with a package to an enterprise shipper, the receiving enterprise shipper uses the traveler label to complete processing necessary to print a shipping label (paragraph 125). A user delivers the package together with the traveler label to a shipping station (paragraph 448). The shipping station then scans in the traveler label in order to retrieve the package and shipping information from the system's databases (342-344) to populate shipping information necessary to rate the shipment and finalize a shipping process and complete the shipping label (paragraph 448). The system communicates with a carrier by formatting HTML queries to the carrier's internet website (paragraph 111).

Claim 16 recites a web-based shipping system for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier, the system comprising "a client sub-system comprising a browser; a centralized database for storing carrier information; a server sub-system configured to be coupled to said client sub-system and said centralized database, said server sub-system further configured to: receive shipping information from a user via the client sub-system; compare the shipping information against pre-stored information; select at least one shipping carrier which matches the shipping information; display the selected shipping carrier based on the shipping information; accept at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to the at least one shipping carrier; and provide a selection from a plurality of modes of printing a shipping label of one of the at least one shipping carrier, wherein the modes include a website of the one of the at least one shipping carrier and an address form that is separate from the website and that includes source and destination addresses."

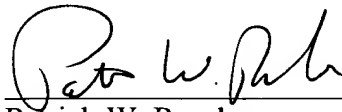
Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a web-based shipping system for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier as recited in Claim 16. Specifically, Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a server sub-system configured to provide a selection from a plurality of modes of printing a shipping label of one of the at least one shipping carrier, where the modes include a website of the one of the at least one shipping carrier and an address form that is separate from the website and that includes source and destination addresses. Rather, Williams et al. describe a system that enables a user to print a traveler label and that communicates with a carrier by formatting HTML queries to the carrier's internet website. The user prints the traveler label and then provides the traveler label with a package to an enterprise shipper. The receiving enterprise shipper uses the traveler label to complete processing necessary to print a shipping label. Accordingly, Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a server sub-system configured to provide a selection from a plurality of modes of printing a shipping label of a shipping carrier, where the modes include a website of the shipping carrier and an address form separate from the website and that includes source and destination addresses. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 16 is submitted to be patentable over Williams et al.

Claims 17-40 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claims 17-40 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicant submits that Claims 17-40 likewise are patentable over Williams et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 16-40 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick W. Rasche", is written over a horizontal line.

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